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Organization:	Northern Illinois University
Project Name:	Illinois Broadband Opportunity Partnership Northwest Region
Project Type:	Comprehensive Community Infrastructure
State:	Illinois
Federal Award:	\$46,114,026

ABOUT THE PROJECT

Many community anchor institutions like libraries, K-12 schools, and community colleges in northwestern Illinois face limited broadband capacity, speeds, and service offerings, inhibiting the ability to serve their communities. To address this situation, **Northern Illinois University** is proposing to deploy an 870-mile network across a nine-county region including Jo Daviess, Stephenson, Winnebago, Boone, Carroll, Lee, Whiteside, Ogle, and LaSalle, significantly leveraging broadband technology for improvements in rural education, economic opportunities, and public safety.

The Illinois Broadband Opportunity Partnership also proposes to:

- Connect up to 500 community anchor institutions, including over 190 K-12 schools, 80 public safety entities, 40 libraries, 100 government facilities, eight community colleges, and 60 healthcare providers, with the capability to serve an additional 130 anchor institutions.
- Construct 637 miles of new fiber and incorporate 233 miles of existing fiber to facilitate more affordable and accessible broadband service for over 280,000 households and 16,000 businesses by enabling local Internet service providers to utilize the project's open network. At least ten local Internet providers plan to interconnect with the network to enhance broadband services for households and businesses.
- The project also plans to upgrade the core infrastructure for Illinois Century Network, the state's educational network, and interconnect with NIUNet and Northern Illinois Technology Triangle, enabling 10 Gbps service for manufacturing and technology parks across the region and promoting job growth, entrepreneurship, and economic development.
- Interconnect with BTOP Round One infrastructure awardee DeKalb County, enhancing both projects' reach.

ORGANIZATION'S HISTORY

Chartered in 1895, Northern Illinois University (NIU) is a comprehensive teaching and research institution with a student enrollment of more than 24,000; seven colleges; 63 undergraduate majors; and 78 graduate programs, including 11 Ph.D. programs. NIU's sub-recipient partners have approximately seven years of experience working together to manage similar consortia. NIU currently manages a 194-mile backbone network.

PROJECT PARTNERS

- Seattle Sutton's Healthy Eating
- Clover Technologies Group
- International Titanium Powder
- DeKalb Fiber Optic, LLC
- Black Hills Resource Conservation and Development Council
- Northern Illinois Technology Triangle
- T6 Wireless, Inc, d/b/a T6 Broadband
- North Central Illinois Council of Governments
- LaSalle County Broadband Initiative
- City of Rockford

Data provided in the project description is based on information supplied by the applicant. An executive summary of this application can be found on www.ntia.doc.gov/broadbandusa.

For press-related inquiries, contact 202-482-7002 or press@ntia.doc.gov. For the general public, contact BTOP@ntia.doc.gov.

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